

Iowa Field Reports-Spring 1995

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- will send doc later this summer →
- ✓ Common Loon-8 on 26 March at Lake Cornelia; 21 on 28 March at Rathbun Res.; 9 on 12 April at Lake Manawa; 1 on 12 May at Lake Manawa; 2 on 16 May at Little Wall L. (+JJD)
 - ✓ Pied-billed Grebe-127 on 31 March and 191 on 12 April at Lake Manawa
 - ✓ Horned Grebe-2 at Big Creek L. and 1 at Saylorville on 24 March; 8 on 28 March at Rathbun Res.; 13 on 12 April at Lake Manawa; 1 on 16 May at East Twin L. (+JJD)
 - ✓ Red-necked Grebe- *1 adult in basic plumage on 28 March at Rathbun Res.
 - ✓ Eared Grebe-2 on 28 March at Rathbun Res.; 3 on 4 May at the Midwest Power Ponds; 6 on 5 May and 10 on 11 May at Riverton W.A.; 3 on 7, 12 May at Lake Manawa; 2 on 16 May at Big Wall L. (+JJD)
 - ✓ American White Pelican-23 on 24 March at Saylorville; 2 on 24 March at Dunbar Sl.; 6 on 26 March at Big Wall L.
 - ✓ Double-crested Cormorant-14 on 28 March at Lake Wapello S.P.
 - ✓ American Bittern-1 on 11 April at Burns Prairie, Palo Alto Co.
 - ✓ Great Egret-1 on 28 March at Lake Sugema W.A., Van Buren Co.
 - ✓ Cattle Egret-1 on 22 April at Riverton W.A.; 10 on 11-12 May at Waubonsie W.A.
 - ✓ White-faced Ibis-8 on 11 May at Blue L. (several in bright plumage with bright red legs and broad white facial border)
 - ✓ Tundra Swan-1 adult on 10 March at Bays Branch and 12 March at Long Pond was probably the same bird seen at Lakin Sl. in late February; 1 adult on 24 March at McCord Pond was a different bird; 1 adult and 2 immatures on 25 March at Teig's M. (+JJD) [all birds identified bill shape, size smaller than Trumpeter, pattern of feathering on bill, adults all had yellow bill spot]
 - ✓ Trumpeter Swan-6 adults on 7 March at Big Creek L. (one with yellow neck collar was from Wisconsin); 5 (3 with neck collars from Minnesota) on 10 March at Bays Branch had been present for several days; 2 adults on 20 March at Lake Pahoja, Lyon Co. (Marty Eby fide SJD-one had an orange patagial tag indicating the bird was from Minnesota)
 - ✓ Ross' Goose-65 on 18 March at Willow Sl.; 19 on 18 March at Riverton W.A.; 2 on 21 March at Big Creek L.; 6 on 24 March at Lakin Sl.; 18 on 24 March at Dunbar Sl.; 1 on 26 March at Big Wall L.
 - ✓ American Black Duck-1 on 14 March at Willow Sl.; 2 on 18 March at Riverton W.A.; 1 on 24 March at Saylorville; 1 on 24 March at Snake Creek M.; 1 on 25 March, 5 April at Teig's M. (+JJD); 2 on 26 March at Anderson L.; 3 on 8 April at Runnells W.A. [these numbers are much higher than normal for me in spring]
 - ✓ Cinnamon Teal-1 male on 18 March at Riverton W.A.; 1 male on 3 April e. of Ames (Mike Meetz fide SJD); 1 male on 8 April on a pond n. of the Rathbun Res. dam (+JSi)
 - ✓ Greater Scaup-1 female on 26 March at Anderson L.; 1 female on 11 April at Hawarden; 1 female on 12 April at McCord Pond
 - ✓ Oldsquaw-1 male on 2 April at Saylorville (Gordon Brown fide SJD)
 - ✓ Common Goldeneye-1 female on 16 May at Anderson L. (+JJD)
 - ✓ Bufflehead-3 on 16 May at Anderson L. (+JJD)
 - ✓ Red-breasted Merganser-100 on 11 April at Storm L.; 1 female on 12 May at the Midwest Power Ponds; 1 female on 16 May at Big Wall L. (+JJD)
 - ✓ Ruddy Duck-345 on 31 March at Twelve Mile L., Union Co.; 831 on 31 March at Lake Manawa
 - ✓ Osprey-1 on 6 April at Hallett's Quarry; 1 on 12 April w. of Boone; 1 on 21-22 April at Waubonsie W.A., Fremont Co.
 - ✓ Sharp-shinned Hawk-1 adult on 12 May at Blue L.
 - ✓ Swainson's Hawk-1 on 21 April in SW Fremont Co.; 1 on 11 May near Bartlett
 - ✓ Merlin-1 female on 14 March w. of Riverton

- ✓ Peregrine Falcon- 1 immature on 31 March at Riverton W.A. (large, dark falcon, pale underwings seen in flight, beginning to show a dark hood and whisker mark); 1 adult on 12 May along I-29 in SW Mills Co.
- ✓ Prairie Falcon- 1 on 14 March w. of Hamburg (large pale falcon, seen only in flight as close as 100 feet- black axillars very conspicuous)
- ✓ Gray Partridge- 1 on 29 March in NW Story Co.; 2 on 12 May in e. Monona Co.; 1 on 16 May near Morse L. (+JJD)
 - ✓ Sora- 1 on 4 April at Errington M.
 - ✓ American Coot- 3,000 on 5 April at Anderson L.
 - ✓ Sandhill Crane- 1 adult on 31 March at Forney L.
 - ✓ Piping Plover- 1 on 22 April at Riverton W.A.; 4 on 4 May at the Midwest Power Ponds
 - ✓ Greater Yellowlegs- 5 on 18 March at Riverton W.A.
 - ✓ Lesser Yellowlegs- 2 on 18 March at Riverton W.A.
 - ✓ Hudsonian Godwit- 9 on 12 May at Blue L.
- ✓ Sanderling- 2 on 7 May at Lake Manawa; 1 on 7 May at the Midwest Power Ponds; 1 on 12 May at Saylorville
 - ✓ Least Sandpiper- 1 on 3 April at Saylorville
 - ✓ Baird's Sandpiper- 1 on 18 March at Riverton W.A.
 - ✓ Pectoral Sandpiper- 22 on 18 March at Riverton W.A.; 125 on 3 April at Saylorville
 - ✓ Stilt Sandpiper- 1 in basic plumage on 22 April at Riverton W.A.
 - ✓ Long-billed Dowitcher- 107 on 5 May near Riverton W.A. (I've never seen such a large number in Iowa in May)
 - ✓ American Woodcock- 1 on 13 March at Riverton W.A.; 6 on 15 March at Big Creek S.P.; I also had 1-4 birds at other locations in Appanoose, Lucas, Polk, Story, Union, and Wayne counties
- ✓ Common Snipe- 11 on 25 March at Anderson L.; 88 on 28 March at Cone M.
 - ✓ Franklin's Gull- 1 on 27 March at Saylorville; 200 on 16 May s. of South Twin L. (+JJD)
 - ✓ Bonaparte's Gull- 1 on 21 March at Big Creek L.; 114 on 8 April at Saylorville; 98 on 11 April at Storm L.
 - ✓ Ring-billed Gull- 5,000 on 8 April at Saylorville were late for such a large number; 3,000 on 11 April at the Spirit Lake dump
 - ✓ Herring Gull- 2 third-summer birds on 12 May at Saylorville
 - ✓ Caspian Tern- 72 on 16 May in a field near Lake Cornelia (+JJD)
 - ✓ Common Tern- 1 on 15 May below Saylorville dam; 1 on 16 May at Morse L. (+JJD) [both birds identified by darker shafts to outer 5-6 primaries]
 - ✓ Forster's Tern- 2 on 12 April at the Midwest Power Ponds
 - ✓ Black Tern- 1 on 5 May at Riverton W.A.
 - ✓ Short-eared Owl- 1 on 11 April near Langdon, Clay Co.
 - ✓ Chuck-will's-widow- 1 on 12 May in SW Fremont Co.
 - ✓ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker- 1 on 29 March at Little Wall L.
 - ✓ Olive-sided Flycatcher- singles on 12 May (+G. Brown) and 14 May (+JJD) at Ledges S.P.
 - ✓ Yellow-bellied Flycatcher- 1 on 16 May at Morse L. (+JJD) [empid with solid yellow underparts, yellowish eyering- did not vocalize]
 - ✓ Alder Flycatcher- 1 singing fee-bee-o on 16 May at South Twin L.
 - ✓ Tree Swallow- 2 on 18 March at Riverton W.A.
 - ✓ Northern Rough-winged Swallow- 2 on 8 April at Colyn W.A., Lucas Co. (+JSi)
 - ✓ Barn Swallow- 1 on 12 April w. of Boone
 - ✓ Red-breasted Nuthatch- 1 on 11 May at Holst S.F. (Gordon Brown fide SJD)
 - ✓ Winter Wren- 5 on 28 March at Croton Unit, Shimek S.F.; 3 on 6 April at Ledges S.P.; 1 on 8 April at Colyn W.A., Lucas Co. (+JSi); 4 on 8 April at Stephen's S.F., Lucas Co. (+JSi)
 - ✓ Ruby-crowned Kinglet- 1 on 28 March at Geode S.P.
 - ✓ Hermit Thrush- 1 on 8 April at Rathbun Res. (+JSi)
 - ✓ Northern Mockingbird- 1 on 8 April at Rathbun Res. (+JSi)
 - ✓ Brown Thrasher- 1 on 8 April at Rathbun Res. (+JSi)
 - ✓ American Pipit- 2 on 18 March at Riverton W.A.

- ✓ Golden-winged Warbler - 3 on 14 May at Ledges S.P. (+JJD)
- ✓ Tennessee Warbler - 1 on 4 May at Waubonsie S.P.
- ✓ Black-throated Blue Warbler - 1 singing male on 6 May at Ledges S.P. (Gordon Brown fide SJD)
- ✓ Yellow-rumped Warbler - 2 on 7 April at Jester Park
- ✓ Blackburnian Warbler - 8 on 14 May at Ledges S.P. (+JJD)
- ✓ Pine Warbler - 1 on 30 April at Swede Point Park, Boone Co. (Gordon Brown fide SJD)
- ✓ Bay-breasted Warbler - 1 on 14 May at Ledges S.P.
- ✓ Blackpoll Warbler - 1 on 4 May at Waubonsie S.P.; 10 on 14 May at Ledges S.P. (+JJD)
- ✓ Cerulean Warbler - 1 on 15 May at Walnut Woods S.P.
- ✓ Louisiana Waterthrush - 1 on 6 April at Ledges S.P.; 2 on 8 April at Stephen's S.F., Lucas Co. (+JSi); 1 on 5 May n. of Thurman, Fremont Co.
- ✓ Rufous-sided Towhee - 1 spotted bird on 4 May n. of Thurman, Fremont Co.
- ✓ American Tree Sparrow - 1 on 8 April at Errington M.
- ✓ Chipping Sparrow - 1 on 8 April at Rathbun Res. (+JSi); 2 on 8 April at Stephen's S.F., Lucas Co. (+JSi)
- ✓ Clay-colored Sparrow - 2 on 5 May n. of Thurman, Fremont Co.
- ✓ Savannah Sparrow - 2 on 18 March at Riverton W.A.
- ✓ LeConte's Sparrow - 1 on 4 April at Errington M.
- ✓ Dark-eyed Junco - 1 on 15 May at Glendale Cemetery (+Gordon Brown) [watched for several minutes at close range - bird was also singing]
- ✓ Lapland Longspur - 115 on 11 April in NW Plymouth Co.; 30 on 11 April in Osceola Co.; very few were seen this spring, suggesting they moved through quickly
- ✓ Smith's Longspur - a pair on 7 March in n. Polk Co. (Gordon Brown fide SJD)
- ✓ Snow Bunting - 7 on 7 March in n. Polk Co.
- ✓ Rusty Blackbird - 100 on 5 April at Ketelsen M., Story Co.; 115? on 6 April in NE Boone Co.
- ✓ Great-tailed Grackle - 1 female on 24 March at Dunbar Sl.; 1 male after 25 March at Teig's M. (+JJD); 1 male on 5 April at Little Wall L.; 5 males on 13 April in n. Council Bluffs; 30 on 12 May at Finn Pond; 3 on 12 May at Dunbar Sl.; 1 male on 14 May w. of Ames, Boone Co. (first record for Boone Co.); 1 pair on 15 May at Carney M. s. of Ankeny (first Polk County record); 1 male on 16 May at Ottosen Potholes, Humboldt Co.
- ✓ Purple Finch - a female at our feeder in early March was the only one seen all spring

✓ Western Sandpiper - 2 on 22 April at Riverton W.A.

1 in nearly full alt. pl., 1 in molt

With pectorals - smaller, very long bill, tapered at tip and slightly drooped

Both birds had large, inverted "V" markings along flanks

Bird in alt. pl. had rusty scapulars, some rusty color on cheek

Both were feeding in deep water, something that is characteristic of Western

Combination of bill structure, "V" markings, and rusty color indicate Western Sandpiper.